

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on December 27, 2023, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Chandler, Kring, and Rippy, and Clerk-Treasurer Clark. Mayor Dolezal was not present.

Others: Abbie Smith – Community Development Director, Joanne Burke, Bill Gossard, Mike Bollman, Diana Tomlinson, Rich Vautaw, Tim Richards, Kegan Schmicker, Bob Edinger, and Andi Pumphrey.

Council President Chandler opened the December 27, 2023, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Chandler shared Mayor Tom Dolezal's feelings from the outpour of support he has had since his heart attack on Christmas Day. He is doing very well and is in good spirits. Chandler stated Mayor Dolezal expresses a sincere heartfelt thanks to the Council and Community for all the prayers and well wishes.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve December 11, 2023, Council minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Ehman. The minutes were approved with Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy in favor. Councilwoman Hufford abstained.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the December 27, 2023, BOW meeting.

GAC: Councilman Ehman stated the Committee didn't meet.

Goodwill: No meeting.

DSW: Councilman Kring commented they had done year-end business and then discussed yard waste. We are trying to figure out how to get all the yard waste out of the facility by mid-year. He also commented that the Board is re-setting the Advisory Committee, we have to do that by state law. We are reforming that with the guidance and advice of Bill White.

Street, Alley & Sidewalk Committee: Councilman Ehman stated we did not meet.

Plan Commission: Councilwoman Hufford commented she was not able to attend.

Utility Board: Councilman Chandler stated December 18, 2023, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted some of the items discussed at the meeting. Mr. Joe Plake has been hired as the Electric Superintendent; he was a former Duke Energy Supervisor.

Youth Council: Nothing to report.

Other Board/Committees: Councilman Kring stated he needs to meet in the next week or two, with Chief Stout, Chief Bitner, Clerk-Treasurer Clark, and Mayor-Elect Schmicker regarding changing the Police and Fire vacation to work like the Civil side.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2023-33 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The Ambulance Fund The Following Appropriations: Councilman Chandler stated this is to balance the books out. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-33, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Resolution 2023-34 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The General Fund The Following Appropriations – Police Budget: This is for the Maintenance Agreements. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-34, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Resolution 2023-35 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The General Fund The Following Appropriations – Fire Budget: This is in the amount of \$26,965.78 to purchase some equipment. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-35, seconded by Councilman Kring. Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Ordinance 2023-13 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Annexing Territory To The City Of Tipton, Placing The Same Within The Corporate Boundaries Thereof, And Making The Same A Part Of The City Of Tipton – Powell Super-Voluntary Annexation: This Ordinance is for second and final reading. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Ehman. Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilwoman Hufford abstained, and Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Ordinance 2023-14 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Annexing Territory To The City Of Tipton, Placing The Same Within The Corporate Boundaries Thereof, And Making The Same A Part Of The City Of Tipton – DeLong I Super-Voluntary Annexation: This Ordinance is for second and final reading. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-14 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Kring. Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilwoman Hufford abstained, and Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Ordinance 2023-17 (Amending Ord. 2023-08) Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance for Police Officers, Firefighters, and All Other Employees by Amending the Other Compensations: Clothing Allowance: Councilman Kring commented for the Council that will be serving next year and the future two Councilmembers here, there seems to be some confusion by some of the Department Heads and what this means. It doesn't change how much we allow for clothing it has been \$500 it will continue to be \$500 but rather requiring all these employees to submit items leads to confusion and back and forth, is this part of the uniform or is it not part of the uniform? It goes back to what the city used to do and gives two disbursements of \$250 each. It is taxable to the employee for their uniform maintenance not for a new uniform it is still incumbent upon the department heads to budget what they need to outfit a first-time firefighter, officer, or an employee so there seems to be some confusion today at the BOW. This is mimicked by what TMU's policy is and it was the policy in the city in the past if \$500 is not enough that'll be a budget discussion every year. It doesn't mean it has to stay \$500. The Department Heads need to budget if they've got three new firefighters starting this year or officers how much it costs separately to outfit them initially. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Kring, and Rippy are in favor. Councilman Chandler did not vote.

Claims: Councilwoman Hufford asked about claim number 175478, out of the GO Bond for \$120,389.22 can you tell me what that project is? Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated it was for the Downtown Plaza the original contract was for \$190,780 for the Downtown Park Phase I and the claim was for part of the payment. Councilwoman Hufford stated she thought the GO Bond was going to be used for the Public Safety Building, not for the amphitheater or things of that nature. Clerk-Treasurer Clark commented that it was mentioned when we had budgets and when we did the GO Bond it could be used for the Public Safety Building, the Park Plaza, or any 400 series items that we had transferred from the General Fund budgets or ARPA. Councilwoman Hufford stated when we voted on it, we were reassured it would not be used for this. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated the plaza was approved. Councilwoman Hufford stated she thought EDIT money was to take care of that and it didn't happen. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated some of EDIT money did take care of that. Councilwoman Hufford thanked Clark. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 175086-175479 for \$877,589.19, seconded by Councilman Ehman. Councilmen Ehman and Rippy are in favor. Councilwoman Hufford and Councilman Kring against. Councilman Chandler stated that is two to two, and by State Statute I can vote to break the tie and he voted for the claims, so the claims are adopted.

#### Petitions, Comments and Memorials:

Mr. Bob Edinger asked where we were regarding the Public Safety Building. Councilman Kring stated the committee met, and we have a report from the engineers, but at this point, it's going to have to wait till the next administration decides what exactly they want to try to do, in his opinion the architect's report estimated between two and two point 5 million.

The reports are always overblown, we don't need a Taj Mahal, but we do need to spend that money on the public safety building, as soon as possible. Councilwoman Hufford stated even the well-known established company that provided an estimate was a two million plus and some serious things need to be done. The GO Bond money was supposed to be the top priority for the public safety building, and it is pretty substantial that is why we have the GO Bond. Mr. Edinger stated that was his understanding as well.

Mr. Bob Edinger asked for an update on the ball fields, he heard it in the BOW but felt the public should hear it. Councilman Kring stated all bids received are on hold until future administration decides what to do and how they want to move those funds around.

Mr. Edinger commented that he hopes for Councilman Chandler that things keep going well for him and the Humane Society, he assumes he will stay involved. Councilman Chandler stated he absolutely will. Mr. Edinger also commented on Councilwoman Hufford, he appreciates all the hard work she has done and done well on the council. Some days he thinks the road was more difficult than it needed to be but she always stood her ground and stayed cool during it. He thanked her for everything she did and is proud to call her his friend after she leaves. Councilwoman Hufford stated she is proud to accept him as my friend. Mr. Edinger showed his shirt that he wore to the first meeting of Mayor Dolezal's term, and he wanted to wear it for him today.

Dr. Joanne Burke thanked the Council for their service. She said she is the Chairman of the Commission on Aging, but she wanted to advise the Council on the accessory dwelling units and that she is in favor of those. Dr. Burke commented that whatever she can do with local government to help people understand the major changes that are coming in 2024 around Medicaid and the care of older adults in Indiana who deinstitutionalize the care of older adults, will impact local communities. She also commented if anyone has questions or needs further clarification, she is available. Dr. Burke stated she wants to be supportive of this community and is just grateful this community is even considering accessory dwelling units to take care of our people and support our families. Councilman Ehman thanked Dr. Burke. Councilman Rippey thanked her for her hard work.

Abbie Smith – Community Development Director stated the baseball project is in progress, not necessarily put on pause. We have done the demo, grading, and contract for the fencing and backstops and that is as far as this administration was able to get it. The next phase will be handled by the next administration.

Councilman Kring stated he has known Tom for a long time and feels he could sum up his mayorship whether you like him or don't or agree with him all the time, he has no doubt in his heart that Tom did what he thought was the best for his community. Kring stated he does not question that he has been trying his best for the last four years. There was a lot done on the BOW that didn't get done in the past, wages, health insurance, and a lot of homes demolished are turned over into more productive hands. Councilman Kring stated he hopes Mayor Dolezal convalesces as quickly as possible.

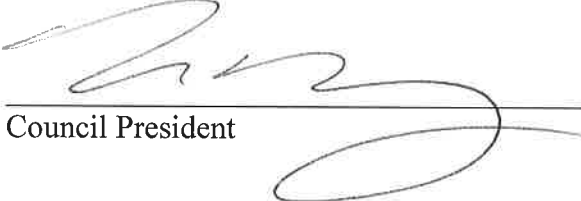
Councilman Chandler thanked everyone for their service. It has been a pleasure to serve with them. You each brought something very unique to the table, it's what the City of Tipton needed and deserved so from the bottom of my heart it's been my absolute pleasure to work with each of you for the last four years. Tammy, Lynn, and your staff it's been an absolute pleasure. You are the ultimate professional. You keep the numbers in line and do what needs to be done behind the scenes. A lot of it is the dirty work people don't see but it's so important to have a very experienced clerk-treasurer, thank you for all you do. Councilman Chandler stated regarding Tom I'm not going to say anything because Councilman Kring said it the best about Tom. Councilman Chandler recognized the new people coming into office Rich Vautaw will be replacing Sophie in District 1, Rich is a hard worker, a good family man, and looking forward to seeing what you can do on the council. Mr. Tim Richards if you could come forward for a second I've got something for you, Tim's replacing me as City Council District 3 seat, you have seen me with the Love Tipton t-shirt and I have a Love Tipton tie and I want to present Tim with my Love Tipton tie and I hope you wear it with pride and I hope you'll represent the citizens of District 3 with all your heart and might, and I know that you will. Last but not least he called Mayor-Elect Kegan forward for just a moment, he publicly wanted to say he wishes you all the luck in the world serving as our next Mayor to the community to serve unity and he wanted to let him know that he is 100 percent behind Mayor-Elect Kegan and he hopes that everyone regardless of who they voted in the election will all throw their weight behind him, give him a clean slate, and allow him to thrive and he is confident Mayor-Elect Kegan will do great things for the City of Tipton, best of luck. Mayor-Elect Kegan thanked Chandler.

Adjournment: Councilman Ehman called for adjournment, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Happy New Year!

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.

  
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Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Council President